

*Calls on Congress to pass HEART for Women Act*

Plainview, NY— Today, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) called on Congress to pass legislation to improve treatment and awareness of heart disease and stroke in women during a visit to the American Heart Association in Plainview. Heart disease is the number one killer and strokes are the number three killer of women in this country.

“On this Valentine’s Day, beyond enjoying all the chocolate and roses, I’m calling on Congress to pass the HEART for Women Act,” said Rep. Israel. “This bill prioritizes women’s heart health by making sure it’s more widely recognized, prevented and treated correctly. We all have women in our lives whom we care about, and it’s time to take action to combat this disease, which is the leading cause of death for American women.”

Rep. Israel was joined by Kennetha Pettus, a stroke survivor who told of her struggle with the disease.

“We have to stop thinking of heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases as a ‘man’s disease,’” said Ms. Pettus. “They are killing our mothers, sisters and friends, and there is much more Congress can do.”

The Congressman was also joined by Robin Vitale, Senior Government Relations Director at the American Heart Association.

“The HEART for Women Act aims to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease in women by educating both women and health care providers about prevention programs and the most effective treatments for women,” said Ms. Vitale. “With more than one in three deaths among American women caused by heart disease and stroke, we encourage Congress to support these proposals and pass them into law.”

Rep. Israel, a cosponsor, called for swift passage of the HEART for Women Act—legislation

that takes a multi-pronged approach to to improve treatment and awareness of heart disease and stroke in women. The bill would require the Government Accountability Office to study whether clinical trial and drug and medical device safety and efficacy data are reported by sex, race, and age. It would also expand preventive health services, referrals to local health care providers, as needed, and lifestyle counseling and interventions tailored to their identified health factors to promote lasting, healthy behavior modifications to low-income, uninsured women. Finally, the legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report annually to Congress on the quality of and access to care for women with heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases.